UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/60
S/23329
30 December 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit:

(a) The Protocol to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed at Minsk on 8 December 1991 by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine (annex I);

(b) The Alma Ata Declaration (annex II);

(c) The minutes of the meeting of Heads of Independent States (annex III);

(d) The Agreement on coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States (annex IV);

(e) A decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (annex V);

(f) The Agreement on joint measures with respect to nuclear weapons (annex VI);

(g) A statement by the delegation of the Republic of Belarus (annex VII).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda items entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Human rights questions", "United Nations Decade of International Law", "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization" and "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Guennadi BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Belarus to
the United Nations

Annex I

Protocol to the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States signed at Minsk on 8 December 1991 by the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine

The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine, on an equitable basis and as High Contracting Parties, shall constitute the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States shall enter into force for each of the High Contracting Parties from the moment of its ratification.

On the basis of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States, and taking into account the reservations made on the occasion of its ratification, documents shall be drawn up regulating cooperation within the framework of the Commonwealth.

The present Protocol forms an integral part of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States.

DONE at Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 in one copy in the Azerbaijani, Armenian, Belarusian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Turkmen, Uzbek and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic. The authentic copy shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, which shall transmit to the High Contracting Parties a certified copy of the present Protocol.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex II

Alma Ata Declaration

The Independent States,

The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (RSFSR), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine,

Desirous of setting up lawfully constituted democratic States, the relations between which will be developed on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for State sovereignty and sovereign equality, the inalienable right to self-determination, the principles of equality and non-intervention in internal affairs, abstention from the use of force and the threat of force and from economic or any other methods of bringing pressure to bear, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and freedoms including the rights of national minorities, conscientious discharge of obligations and the other universally acknowledged principles and norms of international law,

Recognizing and respecting each other's territorial integrity and the inviolability of existing borders,

Considering that the strengthening of the existing deep historical roots of the relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation is in the vital interest of peoples and serves the cause of peace and security,

Aware of their responsibility for maintaining civil order and harmony among the nationalities,

Faithful to the purposes and principles of the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Declare that:

Cooperation between the parties in the Commonwealth shall be conducted in accordance with the principle of equality through coordinating bodies constituted on a basis of parity and operating under a procedure to be determined by agreements between the parties in the Commonwealth, which is neither a State nor a supra-State entity.

For purposes of ensuring international strategic stability and security, unified command of strategic military forces and joint control over nuclear weapons will be maintained; the parties will respect each other's efforts to achieve the status of a nuclear-free and/or neutral State.

The Commonwealth of Independent States is open, with the consent of all its participants, to accession by other States members of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also by other States sharing the purposes and principles of the Commonwealth.

The attachment to cooperation in the establishment and development of a common European space and Europe-wide and Eurasian markets is confirmed.

With the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ceases to exist.

The States participating in the Commonwealth guarantee in accordance with their constitutional procedures the discharge of the international obligations deriving from treaties and agreements concluded by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The States participating in the Commonwealth undertake to comply strictly with the principles of the present Declaration.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. Mutalibov

For the Republic of Armenia
L. Ter-Petrosyan

For the Republic of Belarus
S. Shushkevich

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbaev

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
A. Akaev

For the Republic of Moldova
M. Snegur

For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)
B. Yeltsin

For the Republic of Tajikistan
R. Nabiev

For Turkmenistan
S. Niyazov

For the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. Karimov

For Ukraine
L. Kravchuk

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex III

Minutes of the meeting of Heads of Independent States

On the basis of the provision embodied in the Agreement on the establishment of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Alma Ata Declaration relating to the maintenance under unified command of the common strategic military space and to joint control over nuclear weapons, the High Contracting Parties have agreed as follows:

Pending the resolution of the issue of restructuring of the Armed Forces, command of the Armed Forces shall be assigned to Marshal E. I. Shaposhnikov.

Proposals regarding this issue shall be submitted by 30 December 1991 for consideration by the Heads of State.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex IV

Agreement on coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States

1. To deal with the issues associated with coordination of the activity of the States of the Commonwealth in the sphere of common interests, a supreme organ of the Commonwealth, the Council of Heads of State, shall be established, as well as a Council of Heads of Government.

2. The plenipotentiary representatives of the States of the Commonwealth are instructed to submit by 30 December 1991 for consideration by the Council of Heads of State proposals regarding the abolition of the structures of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and also regarding the coordinating bodies of the Commonwealth.

For the Republic of Azerbaijan
A. Mutalibov

For the Republic of Armenia
L. Ter-Petrosyan

For the Republic of Belarus
S. Shushkevich

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. Nazarbaev

For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan
A. Akaev

For the Republic of Moldova
M. Snegur

For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)
B. Yeltsin

For the Republic of Tajikistan
R. Nabiev

For Turkmenistan
S. Niyazov

For the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. Karimov

For Ukraine
L. Kravchuk

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex V

Decision by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States

The States participating in the Commonwealth, referring to article 12 of the Agreement establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Proceeding from the intention of each State to discharge the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and to participate in the work of that Organization as full Members,

Bearing in mind that the Republic of Belarus, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ukraine were founder Members of the United Nations,

Expressing satisfaction that the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine continue to participate in the United Nations as sovereign independent States,

Resolved to promote the strengthening of international peace and security on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations in the interests of their peoples and of the entire international community,

Have decided that:

1. The States of the Commonwealth support Russia's continuance of the membership of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the United Nations, including permanent membership of the Security Council, and other international organizations.

2. The Republic of Belarus, the RFSFR and Ukraine will extend their support to the other States of the Commonwealth in resolving issues of their full membership in the United Nations and other international organizations.

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For the Republic of Azerbaijan A. Mutalibov	For the Republic of Armenia L. Ter-Petrosyan	For the Republic of Belarus S. Shushkevich
For the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbaev	For the Republic of Kyrgyzstan A. Akaev	For the Republic of Moldova M. Snegur
For the Russian Federation (RSFSR) B. Yeltsin	For the Republic of Tajikistan R. Nabiev	For Turkmenistan S. Niyazov
For the Republic of Uzbekistan I. Karimov	For Ukraine L. Kravchuk	

Alma Ata, 21 December 1991

Annex VI

Agreement on joint measures with respect to nuclear weapons

The Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine, hereinafter referred to as "the participating States",

Confirming their commitment to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,

Aspiring to the elimination of all nuclear weapons,

Desirous of promoting the strengthening of international stability,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The nuclear weapons with which the Joint Strategic Armed Forces are equipped safeguard the collective security of all participants in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Article 2

The participating States in the present Agreement confirm the obligation relating to the non-first-use of nuclear weapons.

Article 3

The participating States in the present Agreement shall jointly develop a policy on nuclear issues.

Article 4

Pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons from the territories of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine, the decision regarding the need to use such weapons shall be taken with the consent of the Heads of the participating States of the Agreement by the President of the RSFSR on the basis of procedures drawn up jointly by the participating States.

Article 5

1. The Republic of Belarus and Ukraine undertake to accede to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as non-nuclear States and to conclude with IAEA the corresponding safeguards agreement.

2. The participating States in the present Agreement undertake not to transfer to any party whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in technology, or control, either direct or indirect, over such weapons and explosive devices, and not in any way to assist, encourage or incite any State not possessing nuclear weapons to produce or acquire by any other means nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or control over such weapons or explosive devices.

3. The provisions of paragraph 2 of this article shall not prevent the transfer of nuclear weapons from the territory of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhzstan and Ukraine to the territory of the RSFSR for the purpose of their destruction.

Article 6

The participating States of the present Agreement shall in conformity with the international Treaty promote the elimination of nuclear weapons. By 1 July 1992 the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Ukraine shall ensure the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons to central bases adjacent to the manufacturing plants for dismantling under joint control.

Article 7

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation (RSFSR) and Ukraine undertake to submit the Treaty on the Reduction and Elimination of Strategic Offensive Arms to the Supreme Soviets of their States for ratification.

Article 8

This Agreement is subject to ratification. It shall enter into force 30 days after deposit of all the instruments of ratification with the Government of the RSFSR.

DONE at Alma Ata in one authentic copy in the Belarussian, Kazakh, Russian and Ukrainian languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of Belarus	For the Republic of Kazakhstan	For the Russian Federation (RSFSR)	For Ukraine
S. Shushkevich	N. Nazarbaev	B. Yeltsin	L. Kravchuk

Annex VII

Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Belarus

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus considers that in the process of establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States, all the States must abide strictly by the following principles:

1. Observance of the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally accepted international legal instruments, and observance of the rights of national minorities.

2. Resolution of all disputes exclusively by peaceful means through negotiations.

Accordingly, the delegation of the Republic of Belarus considers that membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States may be maintained only on condition of strict compliance with the above principles.

(Signed) S. Shushkevich
President of the Supreme Soviet
of the Republic of Belarus

Adopted unanimously at the high-level meeting of countries participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States at Alma Ata on 21 December 1991 as an official document of the Commonwealth.